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to me in the morning
of the 1st of Feb. 18

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5. 1/2 in. or more
one plate

[EUPHROSINE 10.0]

But this is only the first part

TEN
MINUTES ADVICE
TO EVERY
GENTLEMAN
GOING TO PURCHASE
A H O R S E
OUT OF A
DEALER, JOCKEY,
OR,
GROOM'S STABLES.

In which are laid down established Rules for discovering
the Perfections and Blemishes of that noble Animal.

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PREFACE.

THE following short Treatise was compiled with intent to guard the unwary from deceptions in the purchase, as well as to refresh the memory of gentlemen better acquainted with the requisite qualifications of that noble animal the Horse.

The remarks are drawn from long, and, in some instances, dear-bought experience, in the snares which jockies and grooms in general lay before those who are under the necessity of dealing with them.

The Author therefore presumes to hope, that the attempt is praise-worthy; and if in any instance he is found mistaken, the favour of any further hint, for the improvement of a future edition, addressed to the publisher, will be most thankfully received, and properly attended to.

Having premised thus much, it may not be thought improper, by way of introduction, to observe,

That a large shin bone, that is, long from the knee to the pastern, in a foal, shews a tall horse.

Double the space in a foal, new foaled, betwixt his knee and withers, will, in general, be the height of him when a complete horse.

Foals that are of stirring spirits, wanton of disposition, active in leaping, running and chasing, ever leading the way, and striving for mastery, always prove horses of excellent mettle; and those of the contrary disposition, most commonly jades.

Before I enter on my particular observations, it may not be unnecessary to give one general rule, which experience has proved to me a good one, that is,

NO FOOT, NO HORSE.

A horse's ability, and continuance in goodness, is known by his hoofs.

If they are strong, smooth, hard, deep, tough, upright, and hollow, that horse cannot be a very bad one; for they are the foundation of his building, and give a fortitude to all the rest; and if otherwise, he cannot be remarkably good or lasting.

Without further preface, I shall therefore proceed to the following particular remarks and observations.

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TEN MINUTES ADVICE, &c.

NOTHING is more true than the common observation, that in the art of horsemanship, the most difficult part is that of giving proper directions for the purchasing a horse free from fault and blemish. The deceptions in this branch of traffic being looked on in a less fraudulent light than they seem to deserve, and of consequence are more frequently practised; it shall therefore be my business, in the following brief remarks, to shew, in the best manner I am able, the imperfections which, from either nature or mischance, every horse is liable to.

IN THE STABLE.

SEE the horse you are about to purchase in the stable, without any person being in the stall with him, and if he has any complaint in his legs he will soon shew it, by altering the situation of them, taking up one and setting down the other; and this denotes his being foundered or over-worked.

ON ordering him out, let no one be the last in the stable but yourself; you should also, if possible, be the first in, lest the owner, or some of his quick emissaries, take an opportunity to fig him; a practice common among dealers, in order to make the tail shew as if carried very high, when, in reality, the day after he will, in appearance, be five pounds worse.

THE EYES.

THIS is the proper time to examine his eyes, which may be done in a dark stable, with a candle, or rather

in the day-time when he is led from the stall; cause the man who leads him to stop at the stable door just as his head peeps out, and all his body is still within. If the white of the eye appears reddish at the bottom, or of a colour like a withered leaf, I would not advise you to purchase him. A moon-eyed horse is known by his weeping, and keeping his eyes almost shut at the beginning of the distemper: as the moon changes, he gradually recovers his sight, and in a fortnight or three weeks sees as well as before he had the disorder. Dealers, when they have such a horse to sell, at the time of his weeping always tell you that he has got a bit of straw or hay in his eye, or that he has received some blow: they also take care to wipe away the humor to prevent its being seen; but a man should trust only himself in buying of horses, and above all, be very exact in examining the eyes. In this he must have regard to time and place where he makes the examination. Bad eyes may appear good in winter, when snow is upon the ground; and often good ones appear bad according to the position of the horse. Never examine a horse's eyes by the side of a white wall, where the dealers always choose to shew one that is moon-eyed.

THE moon-eyed horse has always one eye bigger than the other, and above his lids you may generally discover wrinkles or circles.

IF you observe a fleshy excrescence that proceeds from the corner of the eye, and covers a part of the pupil, and is in shape almost like the beard of an oyster, though seemingly a matter of no great consequence, yet it is what I call a whitlow in the eye, and if suffered to grow, it draws away part of the nourishment of the eye, and sometimes occasions a total privation of sight: on the contrary, if the eyes are round, big, black and shining; if the black of the eye fill the pit, or outward circumference, so that in moving very little of the white appear-eth, they are signs of goodness and mettle. The eye which in general is esteemed the best, is that which is neither small nor large; but be sure to observe that the

crystalline be thoroughly transparent, for without that, no kind of eye can be said to be good.

COUNTENANCE.

AFTER having carefully satisfied yourself as to his eyes, let him be brought out, and have him stand naked before you ; then take a strict view of his countenance, particularly with regard to the cheerfulness of it, this being an excellent glass to observe his goodness and best perfections. Be careful you are not deceived by the marks in his face, as frequently a good-looking star is made of cat's skin. If his ears be small, sharp, short, pricked and moving : or if they are long, but yet well set on, and well carried, it is a mark of goodness : if they are thick, laved, or lolling, wide set, and unmoving, they are signs of dulness, and of an evil nature.

A LEAN forehead, swelling outward, the mark or feather in his face set high, with a white star or ratch of an indifferent size, and even placed, or a white snip on the nose or lip, they are all marks of beauty and goodness ; on the contrary, a fat, cloudy, or frowning countenance, the mark in his face standing low, as under his eyes, if his star or ratch stand awry, and instead of a snip his nose be raw and unhairly, or his face generally bald, they are signs of deformity.

STRANGLES.

HANDLE his cheeks, or chaps, and if you find the bones lean and thin, the space wide between them, the throple or windpipe big as you can gripe, and the void place without knots or kernels, and the jaws so great that the neck seemeth to couch within them, they are all signs of great wind, courage, soundness of head and body ; on the contrary, if the chaps are fat and thick, the space between them closed up with gross substance, and the throple little, they are signs of short wind and much inward foulness : should the void place be full of knots and kernels, beware of the strangles or glanders, the former of which may be easily discovered by a swelling be-

tween the two nether jawbones, which discharges a white matter. This disorder usually appears about two or three, four or five years old ; there is no young horse but what is subject to it either perfectly or imperfectly ; there is also a disorder which is called the Bastard Strangles, which appears sometimes like, and different from the true strangles. The bastard strangles are what prove the horse has not thrown off his true strangles, but that some foul humours are still left behind ; this disorder may come at four, five, six, or even seven years of age. A continual languor at work, and seemingly perpetually weary, without any visible ailment, is a certain sign that he is not clear of this disorder, which sometimes will affect the foot, the leg, the ham, the haunch, the shoulder, the breast, or the eye, and without care in this latter case, may corrupt the pupil of the eye, as the small-pox does in men.

MORFOUNDING.

THERE is also another disorder, much like the strangles, which is called Morfoundering, and appears by a running at the nose ; but the swelling under the jaws is less.

GLANDERS.

THE glanders are discovered by a running at the nose, either on the one side or the other : feel if he has any flat glands fastened to the nether jaw, which give him pain when you press them ; and remember that a running at one nostril is worse than at both.

VIVES.

WHEN the jaws are strait, that the neck swelleth above them, it is a sign of short wind ; but if the swelling be long, and close by his chaps, like a whetstone, then be sure he has the vives, which is a distemper most frequent in high mountainous countries, especially to horses that are not used to the crudities produced in the stomach by the spring and fountain waters, that rise in hilly grounds : standing waters, or those of very little current, are the least dangerous, and seldom cause the vives, but very deep wells are bad.

NOSTRILS.

IF his nostrils be open, dry, wide, and large, so as upon any straining the inward redness is discovered; if his muzzell be small, his mouth deep, and his lips equally meeting, they are signs of health and wind: but should his nostrils be strait, his wind is then little. Should you find the muzzle to be gross, his spirit will be dull.

IF his mouth be shallow, he will never carry the bit well, and if his upper will not reach his under lip, old age and infirmity mark him for carrion.

AGE.

RESPECTING the age of a horse that is fit for work, he should have forty teeth: twenty-four grinders, which teach us nothing, and sixteen others, which have their names, and discover his age. As mares usually have no tusks, their teeth are only thirty-six. A colt is foaled without teeth: in a few days he puts out four, which are called pincers, or nippers; soon after appear the four separators: next to the pincers, it is some times three or four months before the next, called corner teeth, push forth. These twelve colt's teeth, in the front of the mouth, continue, without alteration, till the colt is two years, or two years and a half old, which makes it difficult, without great care, to avoid being imposed on during that interval, if the seller finds it his interest to make the colt pass for either younger or older than he really is: the only rule you have then to judge by is his coat, and the hairs of his main and tail. A colt of one year has a supple, rough coat, resembling that of a water spaniel, and the hair of his main and tail feels like flax, and hangs like a rope untwisted; whereas a colt of two years has a flat coat, and streight hairs, like a grown horse.

AT about two years and a half old, sometimes sooner, sometimes later, according as he has been fed, a horse begins to change his teeth. The pincers, which come the first, are also the first that fall; so that at three years he has four horse's, and eight colt's teeth, which are

easily known apart, the former being larger, flatter, and yellower than the other, and streaked from the end quite into the gums.

THESE four horse pincers have, in the middle of their extremities, a black hole, very deep; whereas those of the colt are round and white. When the horse is coming four years old, he loses his four separators, or middle teeth, and puts forth four others, which follow the same rule as the pincers. He has now eight horse's teeth, and four colt's. At five years old he sheds the four corner, which are his last colt's teeth, and is called a horse.

DURING this year also, his four tusks (which are chiefly peculiar to horses) come behind the others; the lower ones often four months before the upper; but whatever may be vulgarly thought, a horse that has the two lower tusks, if he has not the upper, may be judged to be under five years old, unless the other teeth shew the contrary; for some horses that live to be very old never have any upper tusks at all. The two lower tusks are one of the most certain rules that a horse is coming five years old, notwithstanding his colt's teeth may not be all gone.

JOCKIES and breeders, in order to make their colts seem five years old when they are but four, pull out their last colt's teeth; but if all the colt's teeth are gone, and no tusks appear, you may be certain this trick has been played: another artifice they use, is to beat the bars every day with a wooden mallet, in the place where the tusks are to appear, in order to make them seem hard, as if the tusks were just ready to cut.

WHEN a horse is coming six years old, the two lower pincers fill up, and instead of the holes above-mentioned, shew only a black spot. Betwixt six and seven the two middle teeth fill up in the same manner; and between seven and eight the corner teeth do the like; after which it is said to be impossible to know certainly the age of a horse, he having no longer any mark in the mouth.

You can indeed only have recourse to the tusks, and the situation of the teeth, of which I shall now speak.

FOR the tusks you must with your finger feel the inside of them from the point quite to the gum. If the

tusk be pointed flat, and has two little channels within side, you may be certain the horse is not old, and at the utmost only coming ten. Between eleven and twelve the two channels are reduced to one, which after twelve is quite gone, and the tusks are as round within as they are without; you have no guide then but the situation of the teeth. The longest teeth are not always a sign of the greatest age, but their hanging over and pushing forward, as their meeting perpendicularly, is a certain token of youth.

MANY persons, whilst they see certain little holes in the middle of the teeth, imagine that such horses are but in their seventh year, without regard to the situation the teeth take as they grow old.

WHEN horses are young, their teeth meet perpendicularly, but grow longer, and push forward with age; besides the mouth of a young horse is very fleshy within in the palate, and his lips are firm and hard: on the contrary, the inside of an old horse's mouth is lean both above and below, and seems to have only the skin upon the bones. The lips are soft and easy to turn up with the hand.

ALL horses are marked in the same manner, but some naturally, and others artificially. The natural mark is called Begue; and some ignorant persons imagine such horses are marked all their lives, because for many years they find a little hole, or a kind of void in the middle of the separators and corner teeth; but when the tusks are grown round, as well within as without, and the teeth point forward, there is room to conjecture, in proportion as they advance from year to year, what the horse's age may be, without regarding the cavity above-mentioned.

THE artificial manner is made use of by dealers and jockies, who mark their horses, after the age of being known, to make them appear only six or seven years old. They do it in this manner: they throw down the horse to have him more at command, and, with a steel graver, like what's used for ivory, hollow the middle teeth a little, and the corner ones somewhat more; then fill the holes

with a little rosin, pitch, sulphur, or some grains of wheat which they burn in with a bit of hot wire, made in proportion to the hole. This operation they repeat from time to time, till they give the hole a lasting black, in imitation of nature ; but in spite of all they can do, the hot iron makes a little yellowish circle round the holes, like what it would leave upon ivory : they have therefore another trick to prevent detection, which is to make the horse foam from time to time, after having rubbed his mouth, lips, and gums with salt, and crumb of bread dried and powdered with salt. This foam hides the circle made by the iron.

ANOTHER thing they cannot do, is, to counterfeit young tusks, it being out of their power to make those two crannies above-mentioned, which are given by nature : with files they may make them sharper or flatter, but when they take away the shining natural enamel, so that one may always know, by these tusks, horses that are past seven, till they come to twelve or thirteen. As the defects of the mouth may destroy a horse without any distemper, I shall here just describe the barbs, the lampas, gigs upon the lips, and gagg-teeth.

BARBS.

FOR the barbs look under his tongue, and see if he has not two fleshy excrescences on the under palate, like little bladders. It seems to be a meer trifle, but these, however, will hinder a horse from drinking as usual ; and if he does not drink freely, he eats the less, and languishes from day to day, perhaps, without any one's taking notice of it.

LAMPAS.

THE lampas is known by opening the horse's mouth, and looking at his upper palate, to see if the flesh comes down below the inner teeth : this gives him pain in eating his oats, and even his hay, when it is too harsh ; though he can very well manage bran, grass, or kind hay.

GIGGS UPON THE LIPS.

WHEN you have looked in the horse's mouth without finding either of the two disorders above, turn up his lips, both upper and under, and perhaps you may find several small elevations, like little white blisters, which make the inside of the lips uneven. This defect may be felt with the finger, and is what hinders horses from eating as usual : and this is what is called giggs upon the lips.

GAGG-TEETH.

GAGG-TEETH is a defect that rarely happens to young horses, and is to be discovered by putting the colt's foot into the mouth, and looking at the large grinders, which in this case appear unequal, and in eating catch hold of the inside of the cheeks, causing great pain, and making them refuse their food.

HIS BREAST.

FROM his head look down to his breast, and see that it be broad, out-swelling, and adorned with many features, for this shew strength : the little, or small breast shews weakness, as the narrow one is apt to stumble.

The ANTICOR, or ANTICOW.

PUT your hand betwixt his fore legs, and feel if he has a swelling there from the sheath quite up between the fore legs ; such a swelling is called the anticor, or anticow, and is mortal to horses, if they are not soon relieved. It proceeds from different causes, viz. the remains of an old distemper which was never perfectly cured, or after which the horse was too soon put to labour, from too much heat, contracted in the stable, by being kept up a long time without airing, or from having lost too large a quantity of blood in what part soever the vein was opened. When you touch a swelling of this kind, the impressions of the fingers remain for some time, as if you had made them in a bit of puff paste, filling up again by degrees, as the paste would rise. This swelling contains bloody water, that insinuates between the flesh and the skin, and proves that all the blood in the veins is corrupted.

His THIGHS and LEGS.

FROM thence look down his elbow to his knee, and see that the fore thighs be rush grown, well horned

within, sinewed, fleshy, and outswelling, those being signs of strength, as the contrary are of weakness. If his knees bear a proportion to each other, be lean, sinewy, and close knit, they are good; but if one is bigger or rounder than the other, the horse has received mischief; if they are gross, he is gouty; and if he has scars, or the hair be broken, beware of a stumbling jade, and perpetual faller.

SPLENTS.

FROM his knees look down his legs to his pasterns, and if you find them clean, lean, flat, sinewy, and the inward bought of his knee without seams, or hair-broken, it shews a good shape and soundness; but if on the inside of the leg you find hard knots, they are splents, of which there are three sorts. The simple splent, which appears within the leg under the knee, remote from the great nerve and the joint of the knee, ought not to hinder a man from buying a good horse, for it gives him no pain, is only disagreeable to the sight, and goes away in time of itself. All the three sorts of splents are known by the same rule; for whenever you see a tumour upon the flat of the leg, whether within or without, if it be under the knee, and appears hard to the touch, it is a splent; and when it is situated as above described, it signifies nothing; but when it comes upon the joint of the knee, without any interval, it loses the name of splent, and may be called a fusee; it then, as one may easily conceive, makes the leg of a horse stiff, and hinders him from bending his knee; consequently it obliges him to stumble, and even fall, and after a violent exercise makes him lame. Rest alone cures the lameness, but not the fusee.

THE third kind of splent, whether within or without, is when you feel it between the nerve and the bone, and sometimes even at the end of the nerve; this is called a nervous splent, and is the worst of all the kinds; besides that, the horse is never here so firm footed, but that he limps at every little degree of labour. The French reject every horse that has a splent, very often without knowing how to distinguish them; and one that has only a single splent, is as bad in their eyes as one that has the other

sort: but a simple splent always goes away of itself by the time a horse is eight or nine years old.

OSSELETS.

THERE are also three kinds of osselets, which are of the same nature as splents, and some persons take them for the same thing; but there is this difference however between them, that splents come near the knees, and osselets near the fetlocks. Their seat is indifferently within, or without the leg.

THE first is the simple osselet, which does not grow near the joint of the fetlock or the nerve.

THIS need not hinder any man from buying a horse, because it puts him to no inconvenience, and very often goes away of itself without a remedy. The second is that which descends into the fetlock, and hinders the motion of that joint: this occasions a horse to stumble and fall, and with a very little work to become lame. The third has its seat between the bone and the nerve, and sometimes upon the nerve; it so much incommodes a horse, that he cannot stand firm, but limps on every little occasion.

WINDGALLS.

THERE are also three kinds of windgalls, which appear to the eye much like osselets, but are not, however, just in the same places; nor do they feel like them, for osselets are hard, but windgalls give way to the touch. Some horses are more liable to these than others, and that for several reasons. Some proceed from old worn-out fires, and others by being worked too young. A simple windgall is a little tumour, between the skin and the flesh, round the fetlocks: when it appears at a good distance from the large nerve, it does not lame the horse; and if he has but age on his side, that is, he under ten years old, at most, he will be as useful as before, provided the work you put him to be not of the most laborious kind; however, a horse is much better without, than with even this sort of simple windgall, which consists of thin skins, full of red liquid, and soft to the touch. The nervous windgall answers the same description, only, as the simple ones come upon the fetlock; or

a little above it, upon the leg bone, in the very place of osselets, nervous ones come behind the fetlock, upon the great nerve, which makes them of worse consequence, for they never fail to lame a horse after much fatigue. These windgalls may happen upon any of the legs, but some of them are more dangerous than others, in proportion as they press the nerve, and are capable of laming the horse; and take notice, by the way, that windgalls are more troublesome in summer than in winter, especially in very hot weather, when the pores are all open. The third sort is the bloated windgall, and is of the worst sort when they come over the hind part of the fetlock, between the bone and the large nerve, and make the horse so lame at every little thing he does, that he can scarce set his foot on the ground: they appear on both sides the leg, without as well as within; and when you touch them with your hand, or finger, they feel like a pig's or cow's bladder full of wind. If under his knees there are scabs on the inside, it is the speedy or swift cut, and in that case he will but ill endure galloping; if above the pasterns, on the inside, you find scabs, it shews interfering; but if the scabs be generally over his legs, it is either occasioned by foul keeping, or a spice of the mange.

PASTERNS.

TAKE care that the pastern joint be clear and well knit together, and that the pastern be strong, short, and upright; for if the first be big, or swelled, beware of sinew strains; if the other be long, weak, or bending, the limbs will be hardly able to carry the body without tiring.

HOOFS.

THE hoofs should be black, smooth, and tough, rather long than round, deep, hollow, and full-sounding; for white hoofs are tender, and carry a shoe ill, and a brittle hoof will carry no shoe at all: a flat hoof, that is pumiced, shews foundering; and a hoof that is empty, and hollow-sounding, shews a decayed inward part, by reason of some wound or dry founder. If the hair lye smooth and close about the crown of the hoof, and the flesh flat and even, then all is perfect; but should the

hair be there rough, the skin scabbed, and the flesh rising, you may then be apprehensive of a ring bone, a crown scab, or a quitter bone.

CIRCLED FEET.

CIRCLED feet are very easy to be known: they are, when you see little excrescences round the hoof, which enclose the foot, and appear like so many small circles. Dealers, who have such horses, never fail to rasp round their hoofs, in order to make them smooth; and to conceal the rasping, when they are to shew them for sale, they black the hoofs all over; for without that, one may easily perceive what has been done, and seeing the mark of the rasp, is a proof that the horse is subject to this accident. As to the causes, it proceeds from the remains of an old distemper, or from having been foundered; and the disease being cured, without care being taken of the feet, whereupon the circulation of the blood not being regularly made, especially round the crown, between the hair and the horn, the part loses its nourishment, and contracts or enlarges itself in proportion as the horse is worked. If these circles were only on the surface, the jockies' method of rasping them down would then be good for nothing; but they form themselves also within the feet, as well as without, and consequently press on the sensible part, and make a horse limp with ever so little labour. One may justly compare a horse in this situation, to a man that has corns on his feet, and yet is obliged to walk a long way in shoes that are too tight and stubborn: a horse therefore is worth a great deal less on this account.

BOW-LEGGED.

AFTER having well examined the feet, stand about three paces from his shoulders, and look carefully that he is not bow-legged, which proceeds from two different causes; first, from nature, when a horse has been got by a worn-out stallion; and secondly, from his having been worked too young; neither in the one case nor the other is the horse of any value, because he never can be sure footed; it is also a disagreeable sight if the knees point forward, and his legs turn in under him, so that the knees come much further out than the feet; it is what

is called a bow-legged horse, and such a one ought to be rejected for any service whatsoever, as he never can stand firm on his legs; and how handsome soever he may otherways be, he should on no account be used for a stallion, because all his progeny will have the same deformity.

HEAD.

THEN stand by his side, and take particular notice that his head be well set on; for if thick set, be assured it will cause him to toss up his nose for want of wind, which causes a horse to carry his head disagreeably high, and occasions a ticklish mouth.

NECK.

HIS neck should be small at the setting on of his head, and long, growing deeper to the shoulders, with a high, strong, and thin mane, long, soft, and somewhat curling; those being beautiful characters; on the contrary, a head ill set on is a great deformity.

POLE-EVIL.

To have a large bigness or swelling in the nape of the neck, shews the pole-evil. To have a short thick neck, like a bull, to have it falling in the withers, to have a low, weak, thick, or falling crest, shews want of strength and mettle.

THE MANE.

MUCH hair on the mane shews dulness, as too thin a mane shews fury; and to have none, or shed, shows the worm in it, the itch, or manginess.

THE SHOULDERS.

IN shewing a horse, a dealer or a jockey will generally place him with his fore feet on a higher ground than his hind ones, in order that the shoulder may appear further in his back, and make him higher in sight than he really is; but be sure to cause him to be led on level ground, and see that his shoulders lie well into his back; for an upright shouldered horse carries his weight too forward, which is disagreeable, and unsafe to the rider. Have his fore legs stand even, and you will then have it in your power to judge of his shoulders. If you do not observe this, the dealer will contrive that his near leg stands

before the other, as the shoulders, in that position, appear to lay further in the back. If his knees stand nearly close, and his toes quite in a line, not turning in, nor yet turning out, be assured he will not cut: if he takes his legs up a moderate height, and neither clambers, nor yet goes too near the ground, he will most likely answer your purpose.

BACK, BODY, &c.

OBSERVE that the chine of his back be broad, even, and straight, his ribs well compassed, and bending outward, his fillets upright, strong, short, and above an handful between his last rib and his huckle bone; his belly should be well let down, yet hidden within his ribs, and his stones close thrust up to his body, those being marks of health and goodness. Be careful in observing that he has no swelling in his testicles, a disorder that usually proceeds either from some strain in working, or from the horse's having continued too long in the stable, or from his putting one leg over any bar, and being checked by the halter, or, in a word from any other accident that confines a horse, makes him kick or fling, and bruises his cods; and there is no other way of knowing this distemper, but by some outward swelling upon the part.

THE coming down of the testicles proceeds from the same causes, with this difference only, that it is a long time of discovering itself; whereas the other may come in one night. If his chine be narrow, he will never carry a saddle well; and to have it bending, or saddle backed, shews weakness. If his ribs be flat, there is but small liberty for wind. Should his fillets hang low, or weak, he will never climb a hill, or carry a burden well. A belly that is clung up, or gaunt, and stones hanging down loose, are signs of sickness, tenderness, foundering in the body, and unaptness for labour. His buttocks should be round, plump, full, and in an even level with his body: the narrow, pin buttock, the hog or swine rump, and the falling and down-let buttock, shews an injury in nature. The horse that is deep in his girthing place, is generally of great strength. His hinder thighs, or gastains, should be well let down even to the middle joint, thick, brawney, full, and swelling, this being a

great sign of strength and goodness; lank and slender thighs shew disability and weakness. From the thigh bone to the hock it should be pretty long, but short from the hock to the pastern. Observe the middle joint behind, and if it be nothing but skin and bone, veins and sinews, rather a little bending than too streight, it is perfect as it should be; on the contrary, should it have chaps or sores on the inward bought, or bending, it is a sallender.

SPAVINS.

SHOULD the joint be generally swelled all over, he must have had a blow or bruise; if in any particular part, as in the pot, or hollow part, or on the inside, the vein full and proud, and the swelling soft, it is a blood spavin; you cannot therefore take too much care in examining the houghs of delicate horses, for let the swelling appear ever so small upon the flat of the lower part of the hough, within side, though the horse may not limp, you ought to be apprehensive that in time, and with but little labour, the spavin will increase on him.

THE fat spavin comes almost in the same place as the other, but is larger.

A THIRD kind is the ox spavin, and this is thought the worst of the three. If the swelling be hard, it is a bone spavin; you should examine a horse thoroughly therefore before you buy him, and in particular, see if all the joints of his legs move with equal freedom. Most horses that have the bone spavin are very apt to start when you go to take up their legs, and will hardly let you touch them with your hand; examine them well therefore with your eye, and see if, between the fetlock and the crown, the leg descends even and smooth; for if you see any protuberance between the flesh and the skin, that looks like a sort of knot, or kernel, you have found the defect.

A CURB.

IF you observe the swelling to be exactly before the knuckle, it is a curb, which is an accident that may happen in different manners; such as a strain in working, slipping his foot in a hole, or in marshy ground, &c. out of which he pulls it with pain, and by that means

wrenches his hough, without dislocating any thing, and yet, without speedy care, he may be lamed.

A RAT'S TAIL.

THERE is also a defect which is more common in the hind than the fore legs, though the latter are not quite exempt from it, and it is called the Rat's Tail, and is thus known. When you see, from the hind part of the fetlock, up among the nerves, a kind of line or channel that separates the hair to both sides, this is a rat's tail; and in summer there appears a kind of small dry scab along this channel; and in winter there issues out a humidity, like the water from the legs. A horse may work notwithstanding this disorder, for it seldom lames him; it sometimes occasions a stiffness in the legs, and makes them trot like foxes, without bending their joints. The hind legs should be lean, clean, flat, and sinewy; for if fat they will not bear labour, if swelled, the grease is molten into them; if scabbed above the pasterns, it is the scratches; and if he hath chops under his pasterns, he hath what is generally called the Rains. If he has a good buttock, his tail cannot stand ill, but will be broad, high, flat, and couched a little inward.

A WALK AND TROT IN HAND.

HAVING with care examined the horse, let him be run in hand a gentle trot; by this you will soon perceive if he is lame or not. Make the man lead him by the end of the bridle, as in this case you cannot be deceived by the man's being too near him. The far fore leg, and near hind leg, or the near fore leg, and far hind leg, should move and go forward at one and the same time; and in this motion, the nearer the horse taketh his limbs from the ground, the opener, the evener, and the shorter is his pace.

FORGING.

IF he takes up his feet slovenly, it shews stumbling or lameness; to tread narrow, or cross, shews interfering, or failing; to step uneven, shews weariness and if he treads long, you may be apprehensive he forges, by which I mean, that when he walks, or trots, he strikes the toes of his hind feet against the corners of

his shoes before, which occasions a clattering noise as you ride; and this proceeds generally from the weakness of his fore legs, he not having strength in them to raise them up sufficiently quick to make way for the hind ones. A horse of this kind is not so near serviceable as the horse exempt from it, and the dealers, to get rid of him, will make abundance of pretences: if he has been just shod they will say the farrier has put on him too long shoes; if his shoes are old, they will tell you he is just come off a long journey, and is much fatigued; you must not therefore be over credulous to any thing a jockey or dealer affirms, for what they say in this manner, is too often with intent to deceive; and it is very certain that a horse who forges can never be sure-footed, any more than one who has tottering or bow legs.

WALK AND TROT MOUNTED.

ON his being mounted, see him walk. Observe his mouth, that he pulls fair, not too high, nor bearing down: then stand behind him, and see if he goes narrower before than behind, as every horse that goes well on his legs, goes in that manner. Take notice that he brushes not by going too close; a certain sign of his cutting, and tiring in travelling. Have nothing to do with that horse who throws his legs confusedly about, and crosses them before: this you may observe by standing exactly before or behind him, as he is going along. In his trot he should point his fore legs well, without clambering, nor yet as if he were afraid; and that he throws well in his hind legs, which will enable him to support his trot, and shoot his fore parts forwards.

A CANTER OR GALLOP.

IN his canter, observe he does not fret, but goes cool in this pace and in his gallop, he should take his feet nimbly from the ground, and not raise them too high, but that he stretcheth out his fore legs, and follows nimbly with his hind ones, and that he cutteth not under his knee, (which is called the swift or speedy cut) that he crosses not, nor claps one foot on another, and ever leadeth with his far fore foot, and not with the near one. If he gallops round, and raises his fore feet, he may be said to gallop strongly, but not swiftly; and if he

labour his feet confusedly, and seems to gallop painfully, it shews some hidden lameness ; for in all his paces, you should particularly observe that his limbs are free, without the least stiffness.

TOTTERING LEGS.

Now that he has been well exercised in those different paces, it is your time to examine for an infirmity, not easily discovered, and that is what I call Tottering Legs : you cannot perceive it till after a horse has galloped for some time, and then, by letting him rest a little, you will see his legs tremble under him, which is the disorder I mean : how handsome soever the legs of such a horse may be, he never can stand well on them ; you are therefore not to mind what the jockey says when he talks of the beauty of the limbs, for if you oblige him to gallop the horse, or fatigue him pretty much (which is commonly done in order to try the creature's bottom), you will in all likelihood discover this defect, unless you suffer the groom to gallop him to the stable door, and put him up in a moment, which he will certainly endeavour to do, if he is conscious of it, while the master has another horse ready to shew you, in order to take off your attention from what he is afraid you should see.

Thus having, to the best of my judgment, gone through every requisite observation relative to the purchase of a horse, studiously avoiding its being drawn into an unnecessary length, yet at the same time being as careful to avoid an affected brevity : the gentlemen, to whom many of my observations are familiar, will please to observe, that I have endeavoured, as much as possible, to write for the information of the person intirely unacquainted with the qualifications which form a complete horse ; in the purchase of which, the person should particularly consider the end for which he buys, whether for running, hunting, travelling, draught, or burthen ; and it is therefore almost unnecessary to remind him, that the biggest and strongest are fittest for strong occasions, burdens, draught or double carriage, as the middle size is for hunting, pleasure, general employments, and the least for summer hackney. The last thing I shall take the free-

dom to observe to my reader is, that a very small portion of this treatise has been taken from a late publication, deficient in many respects, though at the same time containing some trite observations, and that the bulk of it has been compiled from my own experience, assisted by various authors on the subject, of which Monsieur Saunier is the principal. All I have therefore to observe is, that it was compiled at the request of the publishers, as a suitable companion to a book of the same size, intitled, *The Gentleman's Pocket Farriery*, shewing how to use a horse on a journey, and what remedies are proper for common accidents that may befall him on the road, which having been universally approved, and met with a very extensive sale, they are hopeful that a well drawn up assistant towards the purchase of a horse, describing the disorders, &c. to which he is liable, might stand fair to be received with marks of the same public approbation.

THE END.

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